THE FOURTH DAY.

12th November 1908.

The Assembly met at 11 A. M. on Thursday, the 12th November.

SUBJECTS.

The consideration of the general subjects was resumed.

Mr. N. Narayana Pillai (Member, Vycome Taluk) said that there was much scope for the encouragement of Vernacular studies. There was at present a paucity of competent Malayalam Pandits both for English and Vernacular schools. The Vernacular Higher Examination or any other on its lines could not satisfy the ambition of a real Malayalam scholar. He therefore recommended the institution of a Vernacular Advanced Examination, with Malayalam as the first and Sanskrit or English, at the option of the candidate, as the second language, to be held every year. The first language papers should be of the same model as, and of equal difficulty with, those of the University M. A. Degree Examination with Malayalam as the first language. The second language papers should be similar to those of the Matriculation Examination. All candidates who have completed two years after passing the Vernacular Higher Examination or the Matriculation or any equivalent examination might be declared eligible for admission to the proposed test. The suggestion, if carried out, would cause no loss to Government but would only bring in some gain. It would also conduce to the advancement of Vernacular education in the country and supply a number of cultured and capable men whose services could be secured as Pandits.

Dewan's reply.—The views expressed by the Members and the suggestions made by them are noted. Many of the points raised by them are dealt with in the report of Mr. Hodgson's Committee, to which I have referred in para 48 (2) of my address. As already stated by me, that report is now under the consideration of His Highness' Government. The views of the Members will be given due consideration before orders are passed on the report.

8. Encouragement to private aided schools.

Mr. V. S. Krishna Pillai (Member, Thiruvalla Taluk) said that it was gratifying that the number of aided schools in the State was increasing and their usefulness fully

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